



Howrey Docket No.: 02453.0021.NPUS00

Client Ref. No.: P109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/773,487 Confirmation No.: 6629
Applicant : Merchant *et al.*
Filed : February 6, 2004
TC/A.U. : 2155
Examiner : Eng, David
Docket No. : 02453.0021.NPUS00
Customer No. : 27194 Date: November 3, 2006

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

approved
29
11/20/09
Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed September 21, 2006, having a shortened-statutory response period, extending through and including November 21, 2006, kindly amend the above captioned application as follows. **All remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

Please note that this response is being filed within two months of the mailing date of the final office action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.7(a).

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.

Appendix A can be found on page 13 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached hereto) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to *Mail Stop AF*, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

November 3, 2006
Date of Deposit

Joan M. Gordon
Name of Person Mailing Paper


Signature of Person Mailing Paper